

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 /087 W

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R 191600Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3537

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AG, MO, MR, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: GUEDIRA VISITS; OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. REDA GUEDIRA VISITS ALGIERS: MEDIA ANNOUNCED DEC. 18 THAT FORMER MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED REDA GUEDIRA HAD COME TO ALGIERS, APPARENTLY THAT DAY, AND MET WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE. NO FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN, BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM GOOD SOURCE THAT MEETING LASTED THREE HOURS.

2. DEPORTATIONS OF MOROCCANS CONTINUE: AMCONSUL ORAN REPORTS THAT GOA'S PROGRAM OF DEPORTING MOROCCAN RESIDENTS OF ALGERIA CONTINUES. FIGURE ON PERSONS DEPORTED BEING BANDIED ABOUT IN ORAN IS 2,000. AMCONSUL ORAN NOTES THAT, AS ALGERIANS HAVE ASSERTED, SOME OF THESE PERSONS PROBABLY NOT DOCUMENTED RESIDENTS OF ALGERIA, AS LARGE NUMBER OF MOROCCANS HAVE ENTERED COUNTRY ILLEGALLY IN SEARCH OF WORK. AMCONSUL ORAN ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT MANY OTHERS BEING DEPORTED, SUCH AS NON-CONSULAR STAFF OF MOROCCAN CONSULATE IN ORAN, HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED TO WORK HERE.

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3. MILITARY SITUATION IN SAHARA: MEDIA MAKE MUCH OF

POLISARIO RESISTANCE AGAINST MAURITANIAN FORCES WHICH ARE SEEKING TO TAKE LA GUERA AT SOUTHER TIP OF SAHARA. POLISARIO SAID TO BE HOLDING OUT DESPITE HEAVY ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS BY MAURITANIAN FORCES. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT TWO SHOPS IN EL AYOUN WERE TOTALLY DESTROYED BY BOMB BLASTS. SHOPS SAID TO HAVE BELONGED TO MOROCCAN BROTHERS NAMED BENALI WHO WERE CHARACTERIZED AS CLOSE COLLABORATORS OF SPANISH COLONIALISM.

4. MOROCCAN OPPOSITION FIGURE REPORTED IN ALGIERS: FOREIGN JOURNALIST TELLS US THAT MOROCCAN OPPOSITIONIST MOHAMED EL BASRI ARRIVED IN ALGIERS A WEEK AGO AT TIME GOA SEEING TO PUBLICATION OF ANIT-MOROCCAN MANIFESTO BY OUTLAWED NATIONAL UNION OF MOROCCAN STUDENTS (UNEM). BASRI LEFT HERE IN EARLY 1974 AND HAS APPARENTLY BEEN LIVING IN PARIS SINCE THAT TIME. WE DO NOT KNOW IF HE IS STILL IN ALGIERS.

5. COMMENT: GUEDIRA VISIT INDICATES THAT DESPITE TUMULT AND SHOUTING, ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS MAY STILL BE PREPARED TO TALK. WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER HE SENT BY HASSAN, INVITED BY BOUMEDIENE, OR WHAT. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT ALGERIANS MIGHT WELCOME SOME FORM OF NEGOTIATION, BUT POSITIONS APPEAR IRRECONCILABLE AT PRESENT. AS ABERKANE NOTES, MEDIATION WOULD IMPLY ACCEPTANCE OF STATUS QUO, WHICH NON-STARTER FOR ALGERIANS. REPORTED MEDIATION ATTEMPTS, SUCH AS THAT OF IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN (ALGIERS 3571), HAVE APPARENTLY MET WITH NO SUCCESS.

6. GUEDIRA'S VISIT HAS LED TO NO APPRECIABLE SLACKENING IN GOS'S PROPAGANDA EFFORTS AND ANTI-MOROCCAN ACTIVITIES OBVIOUSLY STILL ORDER OF DAY. FURTHER, POLISARIO SEEMS TO BE ALIVE AND WELL. IN SHORT, IF GUEDIRA IS HERE AS A NEGOTIATOR, HIS SKILLS WILL BE PUT TO SEVERE TEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER03630
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0852
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751226/aaaaawbf.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: GUEDIRA VISITS; OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AG, MO, MR, SS, (GUEDIRA, AHMED REDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006